

House Floor Remarks of Congressman Michael T. McCaul (R-TX)  
Gabrielle Giffords Shooting Resolution  
As Prepared for Delivery  
January 12, 2011

We gather here today in this House and as a Nation to mourn the tragic events in Tucson, Arizona. To honor those who lost their lives and those still fighting for them. To honor the heroic acts on that dark day and to condemn the perpetrator for this senseless act of violence.

The last few days have been surreal. When I first heard the news I was shocked and disturbed. That one of our own had been shot. Someone I am privileged to call a friend and a colleague. And as the Speaker said when one of us is attacked all of us are attacked. This experience has been painful to all of us and hits too close to home.

Professionally I was fortunate to have worked with Gabrielle Giffords or Gabby as she is affectionately called. We both serve on the Science and Technology and Foreign Affairs committees. She is passionate, bright, and a delight to be around.

Gabby is a talented lawmaker who always worked effectively across the aisle to get things done for the American people. I was honored to have been one of those she chose to work with. She always told me Arizona and Texas are sunshine states and we need to harness that energy. I agreed with her and together we introduced and passed the Solar Technology Roadmap Act.

She often talked about being from Border States that we needed security to protect our way of life. We helped pass a \$600 Million Appropriation for more resources on the Border.

She is a staunch advocate for the NASA. As everyone knows she is married to an astronaut. She passionately defended the space program and we worked together

with many others to save the human space flight program. In fact the last time I saw Gabby a week ago we were getting off of the elevator to vote on the floor. We talked about NASA and she said in her classic way that we can always do better. That is the true nature of her spirit. We often talked about putting together a delegation to witness the last Shuttle flight. One that her husband Mark is the Commander. I hope we will still have that opportunity.

So when I received the news that she had been shot it had a profound and personal impact on me. For above all she is my friend. A bright ray of sunshine in what is too often a dark world.

Coming out of a tough election she often talked about moderation and toning down the partisan rhetoric to get things done for the American people. I know that it is her sincere hope that as her wound heals so too will the wound inflicted upon this nation. And that the political discourse in this country be restored to one of civility.

I pray for her and all of those affected by this horrible tragedy. I pray that one day she will return to this floor and join her colleagues. And I am confident that she will. For above all she is a passionate fighter and an eternal optimist. Keep fighting Gabby. For we need you and more people like you in this world. May God bless you and may he hold you in the palm of his hand.